

Introductions (2 min total so introductions need to be brief)

- Team leader introduces themselves sharing who they are, where they are from and if they are a survivor, caregiver, patient, etc
- Starting with any constituents in the room, each group member shares who they are, where they are from and if they are a survivor, caregiver, patient, etc. Rotate survivor story from meeting to meeting.
- Team leader introduces the issue to the lawmaker.
- We are here today to speak with you about three critical issues that impact millions of New Yorkers—preserving Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing, expanding access to patient navigation services, and reforming NY’s paid medical leave system.
- I’d like to ask a few of my team members to go over the basics of why these issues are important and our policy requests.

Ask #1 Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing

- Biomarker testing is key to matching patients with the most effective treatment for cancer and other diseases. Biomarker testing helps clinicians identify the right treatment at the right time.
- The 2024 law was a landmark victory for health equity, ensuring that the type of insurance a patient carried would not determine whether they could access precision medicine, the most advanced, targeted approach to cancer and other complex diseases.
- Unfortunately, the governor’s budget rolls back biomarker coverage for Medicaid patients, while people with private insurance are not impacted. By eliminating established Medicaid coverage criteria while leaving private insurance protections intact, the proposal fractures the consistency that allows providers to deliver equitable, evidence-based care to all New Yorkers who need it.
- Rolling back access to biomarker testing will cost lives and long term health care dollars. We must preserve Medicaid coverage of biomarker testing for New Yorkers. This proposal is short-sighted for the budget and will result in worse health outcomes.
- **Will you ask your Conference to reject the governor’s proposal to rollback Medicaid patients’ access to biomarker testing?**

Ask #2 Improve Access To Paid Medical Leave

- All working cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers should have access to paid family and medical leave that allows them to take time off work to attend to their own or a loved one's care without losing their job or income. This includes intermittent leave.
- Yet not all cancer patients, survivors and caregivers who work have access to paid leave, and without it they risk losing employment or not getting the care they need. New York's Temporary Disability System is woefully inadequate.
- The amount a person can receive in TDI is only \$189 a week, a number that has not been raised since 1989 and a person can be fired while undergoing cancer treatment simply because they had to take time off of work.
- For too many New Yorkers, battling cancer is simply unaffordable. No cancer patient should have to choose between feeding their family and keeping up with their treatment.
- A9571/S172a strengthens NY's Paid Family and Medical Leave Programs by increasing the amount a person can receive, protects patients from losing their job during leave, and ensures that intermittent leave is included in coverage and more.
- We cannot make New Yorkers battling cancer wait another year with inaction. Earlier this year the State of New Jersey enacted a significant reform to their TDI system like what we are asking New York to approve. If New Jersey can deliver for their residents, then so can New York.
- **Will you co-sponsor A9571/S172a and ask your Conference to bring the bill to a vote?**

Ask #3 Expanding Access To Patient Navigation Services

- Navigating the health care system can be confusing and complicated. Making decisions after receiving a complex medical diagnosis such as cancer is challenging for anyone, but particularly for populations that have been historically marginalized
- Patient navigation is the individualized assistance that helps a patient overcome health care system barriers from prevention and early detection of disease to accessing quality health care.
- Patient navigators have been shown to help increase cancer screenings rates, help patients better understand treatment options after a diagnosis and help ensure patients receive the post treatment care they need in survivorship.
- Patient navigation also has a proven return on investment and can help identify and diagnosis diseases at earlier stages when less invasive and less costly treatment options are available to patients, often resulting in better outcomes and reduced overall costs.
- S5565 / A6586 will improve care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up, or treatment by requiring all state regulated health plans in New York State, including Medicaid, to reimburse patient navigation services similar to the way Medicare currently does.
- **Will you co-sponsor S5565 / A6586 and ask your Conference to support the legislation**

30-second pitch

On behalf of the 130,000 New Yorkers who will be diagnosed with cancer in 2026 and the more than a million cancer survivors living in New York, we have three asks of you today:

- 1) Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing by asking your Conference to reject the governor's executive budget proposal
- 2) Expand access to patient navigation services by co-sponsoring S5565 / A6586
- 3) Reform NY's paid medical leave system by co-sponsoring A9571 / S172a